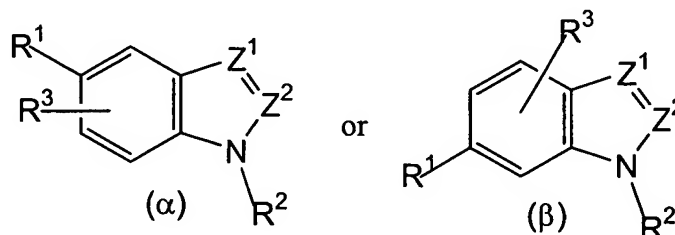


# CLAIM AMENDMENTS

1-38. (canceled)

39. (previously added, currently amended): A compound of the formula:



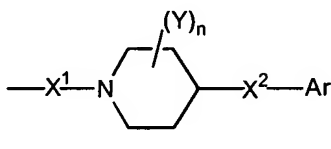
and the pharmaceutically acceptable salts thereof,

wherein each of Z<sup>1</sup> and Z<sup>2</sup> is independently CR<sup>4</sup> or N;

where each R<sup>4</sup> is independently selected from the group consisting of H, alkyl (1-6C) and aryl, each of said alkyl and aryl optionally including one or more heteroatoms selected from O, S, and N and each of said alkyl being optionally substituted by one or more substituents selected from the group consisting of halo, OR, SR, NR<sub>2</sub>, RCO, COOR, CONR<sub>2</sub>, OOCR, NROCR, CN, =O, a five- or six-membered saturated carbocyclic ring or heterocyclic ring containing 1-2 N, and a six-membered aromatic ring optionally containing 1-2 N, where R in the foregoing optional substituents is H or alkyl (1-6C) and each of said aryl being optionally substituted by one or more substituents selected from the group consisting of halo, OR, SR, NR<sub>2</sub>, RCO, COOR, CONR<sub>2</sub>, OOCR, NROCR, CN, a five- or six-membered saturated carbocyclic ring or heterocyclic ring containing 1-2 N, and a six-membered aromatic ring optionally containing 1-2 N, where R in the foregoing optional substituents is H or alkyl (1-6C); [[or]]

~~two R<sup>4</sup> taken together form a bridge optionally containing a heteroatom;~~

R<sup>1</sup> is



wherein


X<sup>1</sup> is CO, ~~or an isostere thereof~~ SO, SO<sub>2</sub> or CHOH;

Y is optionally substituted alkyl, optionally substituted aryl, or optionally substituted arylalkyl or two Y taken together may form an alkylene (2-3C) bridge;

n is 0, 1 or 2;

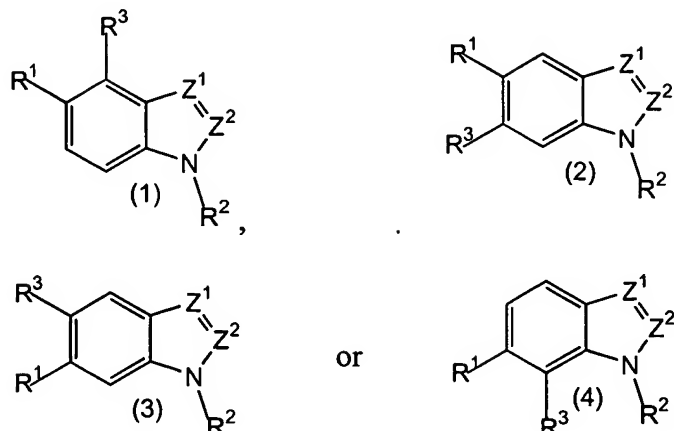
X<sup>2</sup> is CH, CH<sub>2</sub>, CO, CHOH, CO or SO<sub>2</sub> ~~or an isostere thereof~~; and

Ar consists of one or two phenyl moieties directly coupled to X<sup>2</sup>, said one or two phenyl moieties being optionally substituted by one or more substituents selected from the group consisting of halo, nitro, alkyl (1-6C), alkenyl [(1-6C)] (2-6C), alkynyl [(1-6C)] (2-6C), CN, CF<sub>3</sub>, RCO, COOR, CONR<sub>2</sub>, NR<sub>2</sub>, OR, SR, OOCR, NROCR; and phenyl, itself optionally substituted by one or more of the foregoing substituents, wherein R in the foregoing optional substituents is H or alkyl (1-6C);

 R<sup>2</sup> is selected from the group consisting of H, alkyl (1-6C) and aryl, each of said alkyl optionally including one or more heteroatoms which are selected from O, S and N, and each of said aryl or alkyl being optionally substituted by one or more substituents selected from the group consisting of halo, OR, SR, NR<sub>2</sub>, RCO, COOR, CONR<sub>2</sub>, OOCR, NROCR, CN, =O, a five- or six-membered saturated carbocyclic ring or heterocyclic ring containing 1-2 N, and a six-membered aromatic ring optionally containing 1-2 N, where R in the foregoing optional substituents is H or alkyl (1-6C) and each of said aryl being optionally substituted by one or more substituents selected from the group consisting of halo, OR, SR, NR<sub>2</sub>, RCO, COOR, CONR<sub>2</sub>, OOCR, NROCR, CN, a five- or six-membered saturated carbocyclic ring or heterocyclic ring containing 1-2 N, and a six-membered aromatic ring optionally containing 1-2 N, where R in the foregoing optional substituents is H or alkyl (1-6C);

R<sup>3</sup> is selected from the group consisting of H, halo, NO<sub>2</sub>, alkyl (1-6C), alkenyl [(1-6C)] (2-6C), alkynyl [(1-6C)] (2-6C), CN, OR, SR, NR<sub>2</sub>, RCO, COOR, CONR<sub>2</sub>, OOCR, and NROCR where R is H or alkyl (1-6C).

40. (previously added): The compound of claim 39 which is of the formula



41. (previously added): The compound of claim 39 wherein  $R^2$  is alkyl (1-6C) or aryl, each of said alkyl or aryl optionally including one or more heteroatoms which are selected from O, S and N, and each of said alkyl being optionally substituted by one or more substituents selected from the group consisting of halo, OR, SR,  $NR_2$ , RCO, COOR,  $CONR_2$ , OOCR, NROCR, CN, =O, a five- or six-membered saturated carbocyclic ring or heterocyclic ring containing 1-2 N, and a six-membered aromatic ring optionally containing 1-2 N, where R in the foregoing optional substituents is H or alkyl (1-6C) and each of said aryl being optionally substituted by one or more substituents selected from the group consisting of halo, OR, SR,  $NR_2$ , RCO, COOR,  $CONR_2$ , OOCR, NROCR, CN, a five- or six-membered saturated carbocyclic ring or heterocyclic ring containing 1-2 N, and a six-membered aromatic ring optionally containing 1-2 N, where R in the foregoing optional substituents is H or alkyl (1-6C).

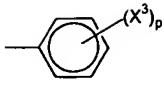
42. (previously added): The compound of claim 39 wherein  $X^1$  is CO.
43. (previously added): The compound of claim 39 wherein  $X^2$  is  $CH_2$ .
44. (previously added): The compound of claim 39 wherein  $X^1$  is CO and  $X^2$  is  $CH_2$ .
45. (previously added): The compound of claim 39 wherein  $Z^1$  and  $Z^2$  are  $CR^4$ .
46. (previously added): The compound of claim 44 wherein  $Z^1$  and  $Z^2$  are  $CR^4$ .

47. (previously added): The compound of claim 39 wherein  $Z^1$  is N and  $Z^2$  is CH.
48. (previously added): The compound of claim 44 wherein  $Z^1$  is N and  $Z^2$  is CH.
49. (previously added): The compound of claim 40 which is of the formula (2).
50. (previously added): The compound of claim 44 which is of the formula (2).
51. (previously added): The compound of claim 40 wherein  $R^3$  is halo or OR where R is alkyl (1-6C).
52. (previously added): The compound of claim 44 wherein  $R^3$  is halo or OR where R is alkyl (1-6C).
53. (previously added): The compound of claim 44 wherein  $R^2$  is alkyl (1-6C) or is aryl, each of said alkyl or aryl constituting the substituent  $R^2$  optionally including one or more heteroatoms which are selected from O, S and N, and each said alkyl optionally substituted by one or more substituents selected from the group consisting of halo, OR, SR,  $NR_2$ , RCO, COOR,  $CONR_2$ , OOCR, NROCR (where R is H or 1-6C alkyl), CN, =O, a five- or six-membered saturated carbocyclic ring or heterocyclic ring containing 1-2 N, and a six-membered aromatic ring optionally containing 1-2 N and each of said aryl being optionally substituted by one or more substituents selected from the group consisting of halo, OR, SR,  $NR_2$ , RCO, COOR,  $CONR_2$ , OOCR, NROCR, CN, a five- or six-membered saturated carbocyclic ring or heterocyclic ring containing 1-2 N, and a six-membered aromatic ring optionally containing 1-2 N, where R in the foregoing optional substituents is H or alkyl (1-6C).

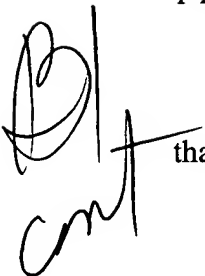
54-55. (canceled)

56. (previously added): The compound of claim 39 wherein n is 0.

57. (previously added): The compound of claim 52 wherein n is 0.

58. (previously added): The compound of claim 39 wherein Ar is  wherein each X<sup>3</sup> is independently alkyl (1-6C), halo, OR, or NR<sub>2</sub> and p is 0, 1, 2 or 3.

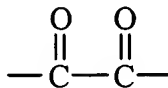
59. (previously added): The compound of claim 39 wherein Z<sup>2</sup> is CH and wherein R<sup>2</sup> is alkyl (1-6C) or is aryl, each of said alkyl or aryl constituting the substituent R<sup>2</sup> optionally including one or more heteroatoms which are selected from O, S and N, and each said alkyl optionally substituted by one or more substituents selected from the group consisting of halo, OR, SR, NR<sub>2</sub>, RCO, COOR, CONR<sub>2</sub>, OOCR, NROCR (where R is H or 1-6C alkyl), CN, =O, a five- or six-membered saturated carbocyclic ring or heterocyclic ring containing 1-2 N, and a six-membered aromatic ring optionally containing 1-2 N and each of said aryl being optionally substituted by one or more substituents selected from the group consisting of halo, OR, SR, NR<sub>2</sub>, RCO, COOR, CONR<sub>2</sub>, OOCR, NROCR, CN, a five- or six-membered saturated carbocyclic ring or heterocyclic ring containing 1-2 N, and a six-membered aromatic ring optionally containing 1-2 N, where R in the foregoing optional substituents is H or alkyl (1-6C).

 60. (previously added): The compound of claim 39 wherein Z<sup>1</sup> is CR<sup>4</sup> and R<sup>4</sup> is other than H.

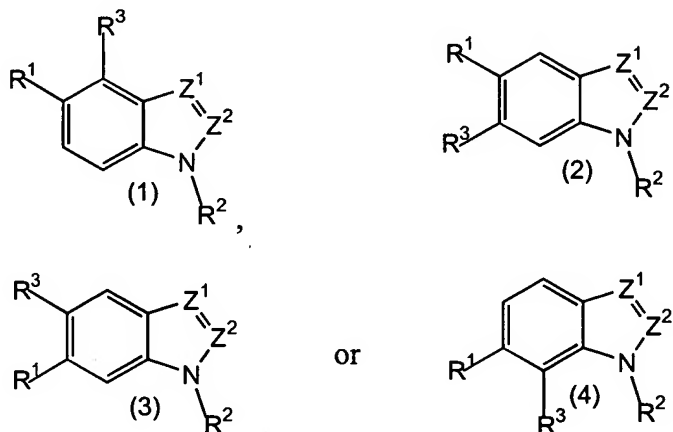
61. (previously added): The compound of claim 39 wherein Z<sup>1</sup> is CR<sup>4</sup> wherein R<sup>4</sup> is other than H and Z<sup>2</sup> is CH.

62. (previously added): The compound of claim 61 wherein R<sup>4</sup> is alkyl either containing one or more heteroatoms selected from O, S and N, or said alkyl being substituted by one or more substituents selected from the group consisting of halo, OR, SR, NR<sub>2</sub>, RCO, COOR, CONR<sub>2</sub>, OOCR, NROCR, CN, =O, a five- or six-membered saturated carbocyclic ring or heterocyclic ring containing 1-2 N, and a six-membered aromatic ring optionally containing 1-2 N, where R in the foregoing optional substituents is H or alkyl (1-6C); or both.

63. (previously added, currently amended): The compound of claim 62 wherein R<sup>4</sup> comprises includes the structure

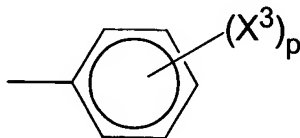


64. (previously added): The compound of claim 63 which is of the formula



65. (previously added): The compound of claim 64 which is of the formula (2).

66. (previously added): The compound of claim 62 wherein Ar is



wherein each X<sup>3</sup> is independently alkyl (1-6C), halo, OR; or NR<sub>2</sub> and p is 0, 1, 2 or 3.

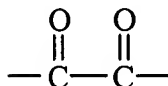
67. (previously added): The compound of claim 62 wherein R<sup>3</sup> is halo or OR where R is alkyl (1-6C).

68. (previously added, currently amended): The compound of claim 62 wherein R<sup>4</sup> comprises includes the structure NR<sub>2</sub>.

69. (previously added, currently amended): The compound of claim 62 wherein R<sup>4</sup> comprises includes the structure of a saturated 5 or 6 membered ring containing 1-2 heteroatoms.

70. (previously added, currently amended): The compound of claim 62 wherein R<sup>4</sup> ~~comprises~~ includes the structure of an unsaturated 5 or 6 membered ring containing 1-2 heteroatoms.

71. (previously added, currently amended): The compound of claim 66 wherein R<sup>4</sup> ~~comprises~~ includes the structure:



72. (previously added): The compound of claim 39 which is selected from the group consisting of:

- 4-benzylpiperidiny l indole-5-carboxamide;  
4-chloro-4-benzylpiperidiny l indole-5-carboxamide;  
6-chloro-4-benzylpiperidiny l indole-5-carboxamide;  
4-chloro-(4-(4-fluorobenzyl) piperidiny l)-indole-5-carboxamide;  
6-chloro-(4-(4-fluorobenzyl) piperidiny l)-indole carboxamide;  
4-methoxy-(4-benzylpiperidiny l)-indole-5-carboxamide;  
6-methoxy-(4-benzylpiperidiny l)-indole-5-carboxamide;  
4-methoxy-(4-(4-fluorobenzyl) piperidiny l)-indole-5-carboxamide;  
6-methoxy-(4-(4fluorobenzyl) piperidiny l)-indole-5-carboxamide;  
N-(3-cyclohexylmethylamino-2-hydroxypropyl)-(4-benzylpiperidiny l)-indole-5-carboxamide;  
N-(3-N-methylpiperazinyl-2-hydroxypropyl)-(4-benzylpiperidiny l)-indole-5-carboxamide;  
N-(3-benzylamino-2-hydroxypropyl)-(4-benzylpiperidiny l)-indole-5-carboxamide;  
N-[3-{{(4-methoxybenzyl)-amino}-2-hydroxypropyl-}-(4-benzylpiperidiny l)-indole-5-carboxamide;  
N-{3-n-propylamino-2-hydroxypropyl}-(4-benzylpiperidiny l)-indole-5-carboxamide;  
N-(4-pyridoyl)-(4-benzylpiperidiny l)indole-5-carboxamide;  
N-(4-pyridylmethyl)-(4-benzylpiperidiny l)-indole-5-carboxamide;  
N-methylacetyl-(4-benzylpiperidiny l)-indole-5-carboxamide;  
N-acetyl-4-benzylpiperidiny l indole-5-carboxamide;

N-(n-propylamide)acetyl 4-benzylpiperidinyl indole-5-carboxamide;  
 4-benzylpiperidinyl-indole-5-carboxamide-1-acetic acid-n-butylamide;  
 4-benzylpiperidinyl-indole-5-carboxamide-1-acetic acid 4-methoxybenzyl amide;  
 3-(2-methoxyethylaminocarboxamidyl)-(4-benzylpiperidinyl)indole-5-carboxamide;  
 3-(2-methylaminoethylaminocarboxamidyl)-(4-benzylpiperidinyl)indole-5-carboxamide;  
 3-(2-aminoethylaminocarboxamidyl)-(4-benzylpiperidinyl)indole-5-carboxamide;  
 3-(4-benzylpiperidinylcarboxamidyl)-(4-benzylpiperidinyl)indole-5-carboxamide;  
 3-(4-benzylpiperidinylcarboxamidyl)-(4-benzylpiperidinyl)indole-6-carboxamide;  
 3-(4-fluorobenzylcarboxamidyl)-(4-benzylpiperidinyl)indole-5-carboxamide;  
 3-[2-(3,5-dimethoxyphenyl)ethylcarboxamidyl]-(4-benzylpiperidinyl)indole-5-carboxamide;  
 6-methoxy-(4-benzylpiperidinyl)indole-5-carboxamide;  
 3-trifluoroacetyl-(4-benzylpiperidinyl)indole-5-carboxamide;  
 6-methoxy-3-(2-dimethylaminoethylamino)carboxamidyl-(4-benzylpiperidinyl)indole-5-carboxamide;  
 3-trifluoroacetyl-4-benzylpiperidinylindole-5-carboxamide;  
 4-benzylpiperidinyl indole-5-carboxamide-3-carboxylic acid;  
 3-(2-dimethylamino)ethylaminocarboxamidyl-(4-benzylpiperidinyl)indole-5-carboxamide;  
 or is a compound as set forth in Table 5.


73. (previously added): The compound of claim 72 which is  
 4-benzylpiperidinyl indole-5-carboxamide;  
 3-[2-dimethylaminoethylaminocarbonyl]-4-benzylpiperidinyl-6-methoxy indole-5-carboxamide; or  
 4-benzylpiperidinyl-6-methoxy benzimidazole-5-carboxamide.

74. (previously added): The compound of claim 73 which is 4-benzylpiperidinyl indole-5-carboxamide



75. (previously added): A method to treat a condition characterized by a pro-inflammation response which method comprises administering to a subject in need of such treatment an amount of a compound of claim 39 or a pharmaceutical composition thereof effective to treat said condition.

76. (previously added): The method of claim 75 wherein said condition characterized by inflammation is acute respiratory distress syndrome, asthma, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease, uveitis, IBD, acute renal failure, head trauma, or ischemic/reperfusion injury.

 77. (previously added): A method to treat a heart condition associated with cardiac failure, which method comprises administering to a subject in need of such treatment an amount of a compound of any of claim 76 or a pharmaceutical composition thereof effective to treat said heart condition.

78. (previously added): The method of claim 77 wherein said chronic heart condition is congestive heart failure, cardiomyopathy or myocarditis.

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